Issue of cross border terrorism in G-15 Summit

2543. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent G-15 Summit there was general acceptance of the problem relating to cross border terrorism;

(b) if so, what decision were taken therein to deal with the menacing problem effectively; and

(c) the steps since taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The G-15 Summit discussed the threat posed by terrorism to peace and stability at national, regional and international levels and concluded that terrorist acts undermine political and territorial integrity of countries, destroy the social fabric and disrupt democratic institutions, besides undermining economic growth and development. The Summit strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism, their perpetractors, and all those who support them under whatever guise, and called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat this menace. The Summit also recommended that all States become parties to multilateral conventions for the elimination of specific acts of terrorism in accordance with the applicable resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. The Summit further called for the urgent conclusion and the effective implementation of a comprehensive international convention for combating terrorism.

हज यात्रियों को राजसहायता

2544. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा हज यात्रियों को लगातार राजसहायता दी जाती रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वित्तीय वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान हज-यात्रियों को कितनी-कितनी राजसहायता दी गई और इन हज-यात्रियों की संख्या कितनी थी;

(ग) क्या चालू वर्ष में भी हज-यात्रियों के लिए राजसहायता के रूप में कुछ राशि निर्धारित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे हज-यात्रियों की संख्या और उन्हें आंबटित की गई राजसहायता की राशि के संबंध में क्या अनुमान है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) जी हां। सरकार हज समिति, मुम्बई के माध्यम से हज करने वाले तीर्थ यात्रियों को हवाई चार्टर किरायों में आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करती है।

(ख) वर्ष	यात्रियों की संख्या	कुल आर्थिक सहायता (करोड़ रु० में)
1995-96	50,347	38.47
1996-97	53,766	80.00
1997-98	63,648	111.49

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि हज 99 के दौरान हज समिति कि जरिये 63,000 यात्री हज यात्रा पर जायेंगे, जिसमें हज चार्टर पर कुल 111.13 करोड़ रूपये की आर्थिक सहायता शामिल होगी।

Memorandum of Understanding Between India and Neighbouring Countries

2545. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed by Government with Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Sri Lanka and Nepal during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the salient features of these MoUs; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The requisite details are as under:

	Pakistan	Bangladesh	China	Sri Lanka	Nepal
1996-97	Nil	Nil	5	Nil	Nil
1997-98	Nil	1	3	Nil	1
1998-99	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Total:	1	1	8	1	1

(b) and (c) The salient features of these Memorandums of Understanding are as follows:

Pakistan: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Pakistan on February 21, 1999, which provides that the two sides shall: engage in bilateral consultations on security concepts and nuclear doctrines with a view to developing measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields, aimed at avoidance of conflict; provide each other with advance notification in respect of ballistic missile flight tests and shall conclude a bilateral agreement in this regard; undertake national measures at reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons under their respective control; notify each other immediately in the event of any accidental, unauthorised or unexplained incident that could create the risk of a fall out with adverse consequences for both sides or an outbreak of a nuclear war between the two countries; abide by their respective unilateral moratorium on conducting further nuclear test explosions unless either side in exercise of its national sovereignty decides that extraordinary events have jeopardized its supreme interests; conclude an agreement on prevention of incidents at sea in order to ensure safety of navigation by naval vessels and aircraft belonging to the two sides; periodically review the existing confidence building measures and set up appropriate consultative mechanisms to monitor and ensure their effective implementation; undertake a review of the existing communication links with a view to upgrading and improving these links and to provide for fail-safe and secure communication; and engage in bilateral consultations on security, disarmament and non-proliferation issues within the context of negotiations on these issues in multilateral fora.

Bangladesh: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Bangladesh on September 13, 1997 for entering into a **cultural and academic exchange programme** (CAEP) for the years-1997—99. The CAEP provides for cooperation in the field of art and culture, tourism, social welfare, Radio & TV, Press and films, sports and health. Cooperation in these areas includes exchange of experts and delegations providing education training facilities and interaction between institutions.

China: MoUs signed during the visit of the Chinese President of India from Novemebr 28 to December 1, 1996:

(i) MoU on **Confidence Building Measures** in the military field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. Apart from stipulating that neither side shall use its military capability against the other side, it lays down some important guiding principles for reduction or limitation of identified categories of military forces and armaments to mutually agreed ceilings within mutually agreed geographical zones along the LAC.

(ii) MoU on Maintenance of the **Consulate General of India in the Hong Kong** Special Administrative Region of the PRC.

(iii) MoU on **Maritime Transport** for facilitation of merchant shipping between the two countries, including providing MFN treatment to each other's vessels.

(iv) MoU on **Cooperation for Combating Illicit Trafficking** in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, combating organized crimes, combating forgery of currency, securities and official documents, combating trafficking in fire arms, ammunition and prohibited materials, combating international illegal activities in the economic field and exchange of experience in police training and education.

In addition, the following MoUs have been signed with China:

(v) MoU for **cooperation in the field of Meteorological Science** and Technology signed during the visit of Director General (Meteorology) to China from March 5-7, 1997.

(vi) MoU on **Direct Air Services** signed during the visit of Secretary, Civil Aviation from May 18-20, 1997 to provide for a revised route schedule.

(vii) MoU on **Cooperation between Doordarshan and Chinese Central Television** signed in June 1997 to provide for exchange of TV programmes in fields such as news, economic development, culture,

education, children's programmes, science & technology, entertainment and sports. It also stipulates provision of assistance for visiting reporters and production teams, as well as technicians and officials from either side.

(viii) MoU on **Space Cooperation signed** during the visit of Director, ISRO to China from July 9-17, 1997. The two sides decided the following action items for cooperation: small satellites, satellite based disaster management, detection of oil and gas using remote sensing, SAR data processing, TT&C support, and procurement of components, materials and sub-systems.

Sri Lanka: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Sri Lanka on December 28, 1998 on the setting up of an **India-Sri Lanka Foundation** with matching contribution of Rupees 2 crores from both sides. Teh Foundation would work towards promoting bilateral exchanges in the field of art, culture, trade, commerce and science & technology. The Foundation would be governed by an independent Board.

Nepal: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Nepal on June 5, 1997 to further strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in the field of **civil aviation.** Under the MoU, the seat-capacity entitlement was revised from 4000 to 6000 seats per week in each direction for the designated airlines of each side. The designated airline of Nepal was also permitted to operate air services to two additional points in India, viz. Bangalore and Lucknow.

Anomalise in Pensionary Benefits and Allowances

2546. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of steps taken/contemplated to remove the anomalies and extend justice to different categories of civilian employees of Central Government and its instrumentalities in matters of pensionary benefits and allowanes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): In the case of Central Government employees pensionary benefits are governed by Central Civil services (Pension) Rules, 1972 and grant of allowances is regulated through various executive instructions issued from time to time in respect different types of allowances admissible. As regards pensinory benefits, in the strict sense, no anomalous position exists under the Cental Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. In the case of pension, Dearness Relief is given on a flat rate which is applicable to all the pensioners as per the Fifth Pay Commission recommenndations.

Five Days a Week

2547. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that five days a week has become curse to masses where public dealing is involved;

(b) whether the purpose for which five days a week was adopted stands now defeated;

(c) whether the Pay Commission has also recommended to wipe out this order in the light of developing countries; and

(d) if so, by when this decison will be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING,) REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Five-day week was introduced in June, 1985 in consultaion with the Staff Unions under Joint Consultative Machinery & Compulsory Arbitration (JCM) maintaing the weekly working hours as under the 6 days week working. Working hours were subsequently increased to the existing level of 42.1/2 hours in November, 1986 as per the reommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission.

In the light of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, various Departments have been advised to review the existing arrangement and switch over to six-days week working where-ever feasible in organisations whose functions are predominatly marked by public dealings or of commercial nature.